



Minutes

CAPM Board of Directors Meeting

June 5, 2014

5:00PM – 7:00PM

Lady Slipper Room, Centennial Office Building

658 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55155

Madame Chair Batika called the meeting to order at 5:04PM.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM

Ms. Hedy Tripp, chair of the national governing board of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), presented on the organization's founding, history, mission, and recent work.

Mr. Dao Xiong, from the PACER Center, presented on the organization and its work with Southeast Asian families.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Adeel Lari

Ananda Liyanapathirana

Elsa Batika

George Thaw Moo

Hedy Tripp

Hoeun Hach

Shivanthi Sathanandan

Tran Nhon

Priya Outar

State Senator Alice Johnson, represented by her Legislative Assistant, Marie McCarthy

State Representative Carolyn Laine

Staff: Sia Her, Karina Vang, and Angelina Nguyen.

Absent: Melissa Kwon, Danny Lee, Mukhtar Thakur, Shanti Shah, Tsewang Ngodup, State Representative Joe Mullery, and State Senator Fong Hawj.

With 9 out of 14 voting members present, there was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Madame Chair Batika presented to the board the minutes of April 17, 2014.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Lari raised a concern that language in the minutes used the term "representation," which he viewed as problematic because an individual cannot represent an entire ethnic group. He elaborated that the individuals from each ethnic group who were



not present at the table may feel disenfranchised. Madame Chair Batika interpreted CAPM's mandate to mean each board member, when appointed by the Governor, was appointed to represent a specific ethnic community. Representative Laine drew a comparison to the state representative structure whereby an individual is selected to represent a community. Madame Chair Batika suggested that staff help to research on the intent of the language in CAPM's enabling statute.

Ms. Sathanandan asked for an edit of the word "Bujarati" to its correct spelling "Gujarati" on page 3.

MOTION: To approve the April 17, 2014 meeting minutes.

BY: Ms. Sathanandan and Mr. Nhon seconded. Votes: 8 ayes, 1 nay by Mr. Lari, 1 abstention by Ms. Tripp. *Motion was approved.*

IV. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2014 MEETING AGENDA

Madame Chair Batika presented to the board the agenda of June 5, 2014.

MOTION: To approve June 5, 2014 meeting agenda.

BY: Mr. Lari and Ms. Sathanandan seconded. *Motion was unanimously approved.*

V. LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2014 RECAP

Representative Laine shared some key successes of the 2014 legislative session. The bonding bill was a success; however, the existing need in communities is greater than what was provided in the bonding bill, which poses an opportunity for CAPM to participate in the legislative process. She suggested other opportunities to offer input in the legislative process included minimum wage, English language learners, anti-bullying, housing finance, and elections. She advised CAPM to bring its voice into these discussions and to prioritize its focus on these issues.

Marie McCarthy, representing Senator Johnson, reported that Senator Johnson was successful in making breakfast free for all kindergarten students starting next school year.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER: SENATOR HAYDEN

Senator Jeff Hayden, representing South Minneapolis, spoke about S.F. 2903, a bill introduced during the session on the matter of the four councils of color. The effectiveness of the councils of color is important to the Legislature. Senate File 2903 stipulates that the Commissioner of Human Rights oversees the work of the councils and enforces accountability. The OLA report found across all four councils that there is lack of legislative interaction, lack of accountability, and insufficient Board participation. Senator Hayden shared that he and Senator Champion decided not to push the bill during the 2014 legislative session because they want communities' input in how the councils are to be best reorganized. The intent behind S.F. 2903 was to send a message to the councils and the public that action will be taken. Representative Laine reaffirmed that it is very important

that the councils of color become more effective in the policy-making arena. The floor was opened to Q&A.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Nhon asked, "How do deficiencies, as identified in the OLA report, get rectified by placing the councils of color under the Human Rights Commissioner?" Senator Hayden replied that the strength of the executive branch should be used to enforce accountability of the councils.

Dr. Chaudhary, a community member present, expressed that he would be disappointed if the councils were to be disbanded. Senator Hayden confirmed that the intent is not to disband the councils, but to find the best way to increase their effectiveness.

Mr. Liyanapathirana suggested that perhaps the Department of Human Services rather than the Department of Human Rights would be more fitting to oversee the councils of color, since by issues, all the councils work on the same human services issues. He didn't see any major issues raised in the OLA report against CAPM. Senator Hayden pointed to the OLA report and responded that the OLA found that CAPM has not been accountable; in addition, the Senator pointed out, a disparity council is already in existence to advise the Department of Human Services.

Ms. Tripp expressed discomfort with comparing councils or executive directors with one another. She also expressed concern of the councils' loss of autonomy if placed under the Department of Human Rights. Senator Hayden clarified that the councils are not independent and autonomous organizations, but are funded by the Legislature and mandated to advise the Legislature. Representative Laine reiterated that a government agency such as CAPM was created by the government, is part of government, funded by the government, and is for the government.

Mr. Lari shared his experience in government over the last 30-40 years. Many past Commissioners of Human Rights felt powerless and asked him and the councils of color to help them, not vice versa. Senator Hayden confirmed that the political landscape will change regardless. He confirmed that the chief authors of S.F. 2903 have spoken with other legislators, who in turn agreed that action is necessary.

Ms. Jean Lee, a community member present, commented on both the misalignment between Board members' commitment and CAPM's lack of support of bills brought forth by API community members in the past.

Mr. Nhon asked why the Indian Affairs Council wasn't proposed to be placed under the Department of Human Rights. Senator Hayden explained that in consideration of the sovereign nations under IAC, it's better to place them under MMB.



In closure, Senator Hayden asked for CAPM's participation in the community forum and thanked everyone for talking about this issue. He assured the Board that whether or not it participates, change is coming and the councils will no longer be able to operate as usual.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A copy of the Executive Director's Report was provided to everyone. The floor was open for questions and comments.

Mr. Lari raised the question of how it's possible to know CAPM's role in each bill that had passed. Ms. Her reminded the Board of the legislative work tracking sheet that was handed out at the last Board meeting.

Mr. Nhon suggested that CAPM take Senator Hayden's offer to participate in community forums. He shared that Senator Pappas has said publicly that she would work with Senator Saxhaug on the future of the Councils.

Ms. Her highlighted the financial report – CAPM will carry \$66,700 into the FY15. Madame Chair Batica highlighted the CAPM brochure.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: No updates.

Government Relations Committee: since the legislative session adjourned, there was no update. Committee Chair Nhon would like to convene another committee meeting soon to plan for the 2015 legislative session. In May, he met with legislators alongside some Cambodian veterans.

Events Committee: Madame Chair Batica reported on the Heritage Dinner.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Community events:

Mr. Hach announced that this upcoming weekend the Cambodian community will host a prayer event. On June 21, 2014, the Cambodian community will host a graduation party for its high school and college graduates. He asked for a support letter from CAPM to the U.S. Congress to recognize the role played by Lao, Hmong, and Cambodian communities in the Vietnam War. He passed out documents relevant to his announcement.

Ms. Tripp reported on the NAPAWF event that took place in St. Cloud.



Mr. Lari arranged a meeting between US Senator Klobuchar and the South Asian communities. Next week he'll meet with the Consular General from Chicago.

Ms. Sathanandan shared that there will be a Hindu event at the temple in Maple Grove starting tomorrow, June 6, through Sunday, June 8, 2014. In addition, the Festival of Indian culture will happen on August 1 and is free to the public.

Madame Chair Batika announced that the Filipino community will celebrate 100 years of independence from Spain at the Roseville Central Park on June 7, 2014, 10AM to 3PM.

Ms. Chaudhary, a community member present, announced that SEWA will host 2 health clinics this weekend, one at the Sikh temple in Bloomington and another at the Hindu temple in Maple Grove. She voiced that domestic violence in the Indian community is not addressed nor is it on the radar at the Legislature.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10PM.